

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 734

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to urge the State Board of Education to review required tests for licensure.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is facing a teacher shortage; and

WHEREAS, local education agencies continue to experience difficulties in finding qualified, licensed applicants to fill teaching positions; and

WHEREAS, this problem is particularly pervasive in certain subject areas such as math, foreign languages, and special education; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is experiencing an ever-increasing number of persons teaching under waivers or permits; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal law mandate that all Tennessee classrooms in core subject areas have highly qualified, licensed teachers by 2005-06; and

WHEREAS, persons seeking licensure as a teacher in Tennessee are required to pass examinations that assess both pedagogical and content knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Education, regularly reviews the appropriateness of these testing requirements in terms of their validity and alignment with the State's licensure standards; and

WHEREAS, teacher training institutions should strive to prepare students for successful completion of these examinations; and

WHEREAS, some candidates for teacher licensure successfully complete coursework requirements while experiencing difficulty in passing required examinations; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has jurisdiction over teacher preparation programs, including the approval of such programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Education, report to the Select Oversight Committee on Education on how candidates are prepared for these testing requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation and transmitted to Dr. Douglas Wood of the State Board of Education and Commissioner Lana Sievers of the Department of Education